
**Public Safety & Emergency
Preparedness Committee**

HB 1904

Brief Description: Addressing construction specifications for public schools.

Sponsors: Representative Anderson.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires all newly constructed or substantially renovated public schools to be built and available as emergency shelters and have a system in place to alert the public of their availability during states of emergency.

Hearing Date: 2/14/07

Staff: Yvonne Walker (786-7841).

Background:

Generally individual districts design their own school buildings. They are often funded with local bonds and some state funds. However, there are specific requirements that schools must meet prior to opening up or allowing students inside for educational purposes. Some of the requirements that must be met include specific building codes, fire codes, high performance standards (otherwise known as green buildings), Growth Management Act requirements, as well as certain health restrictions.

Prior to a building being constructed, construction contractors often submit competing bids along with construction specifications and designs that are used to detail everything that will be included in the construction of a building. Construction specifications often specify the details of the work for which direct payment will be made, the estimated quantities of work (labor hours), units of measurement, technical details, any requirements of the contract, all products that will be used, material specifications and requirements, and costs.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Beginning July 1, 2007, the construction specifications for each newly constructed or substantially renovated public school in Washington must include, but is not limited to, having the built-in capacity to provide shelter, food, water, sewage, fire protection information, evacuation plans, and utility information to the public in the event of an emergency. Such facilities must be made available to the public during states of emergency and a system must be in place to alert the public that the facilities are available during states of emergency.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 2, 2007.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.